

Nuggets of News



P.O. Box 26
Gold Hill, Ore. 97525
325 Second Ave.

March 1993

In early spring of 1843, the first major wave of emigrants left the United States at Independence, Missouri. They sought the "promised land" of the Oregon Territory. Their journey along the Emigrant Road is fascinating Americans in this, the Sesquicentennial Celebration of the Oregon Trail.

We invite you to submit stories, diary excerpts, or "bits of hearsay" about the Oregon Trail for inclusion in our next newsletter. We hope you will enjoy the following tale from Rick Steber's Oregon Trail as our "kickoff" to the Oregon Trail Celebration.

The Cannon and Mule Molly

Not a day passed that members of the small wagon train did not fear Indian attack. But across the plains and even over the Rocky Mountains the Indians they encountered were friendly. And then they hit the Oregon Country.

On a sagebrush flat, cut by deep dry washes that could hide men on horseback, came a blood-curdling war whoop and the pounding of horses' hooves. Indians, faces painted, rode the length of the wagon train firing arrows.

The captain called for the wagons to be circled and drivers quickly obeyed, but the attack persisted. The Indians rode in close, shooting arrows. The pioneers took pot shots at them with black powder rifles.

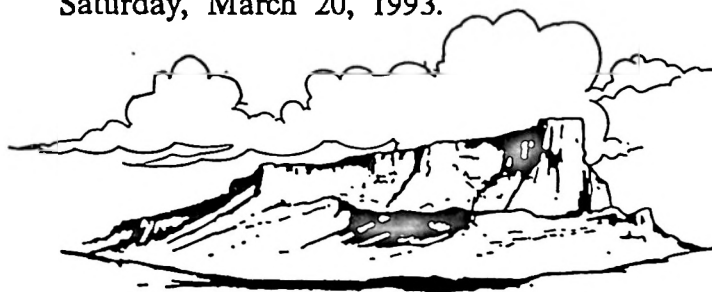
The pioneers had been planning

for a moment like this. Before leaving Missouri they had purchased a small cannon and a mule named Molly to carry it. When the Indians poised for another attack, Molly was led to the front. Without taking time to unpack her, the cannon was loaded and Molly turned so that her hindquarters as well as the opening of the cannon were pointed toward the group of Indians.

A belch of white smoke. Molly was knocked forward. A split second later the roar of the cannon reached the Indians. They grunted in surprise and a few moments later the chief, his right arm held in a sign of peace, came riding slowly toward the pioneers. He spoke solemnly, saying the Indians could not compete with the white man who could "shootum mule."

Excerpt from Oregon Trail, volume 1 of Rick Steber's Tales of the Wild West. Reprinted by permission of Bonanza Publishing, Box 204, Prineville, Oregon 97754; (503)447-6909. For ordering information or catalog requests, please write or call the publisher.

Regarding the Sesquicentennial Celebration, the City of Portland will launch its festivities downtown on Saturday, March 20, 1993.





New Officers

At a recent meeting, an election of new officers was held. Though all members present voiced a lack of time to properly fill an office, four individuals stepped forward to accept the challenge. We proudly present our officers for 1993:

Marge Martin.....President
 Clare Moore.....Vice President
 Ted Wharton.....Secretary
 Evelyn Parker....Treasurer

Pass It On

Will you be saving this issue of "Nuggets of News"? If not, don't throw it away! Pass it on to a relative or friend who is interested in Gold Hill's history. Inform them, too, that they can be a member by sending a modest \$5.00 to P.O. Box 26, Gold Hill, Oregon 97525. Then they will be receiving this informative newsletter four times each year.

Bricks Sold Out

The old bricks recovered from the donated power substation on First Avenue have been sold. Incidentally, the lot on which the structure stood has been sold and a house is under construction.

NOTE: Monthly meeting dates are now the third Wednesday at 7:00 at the museum (325 Second Avenue)

NOTE: If you haven't sent in your 1993 dues, please do so. Remember, they're still only \$5.00.

1993 Calendar: Sold Out!!

The 1993 Gold Hill Historical Society Calendar was the most sought-after calendar yet. We are sold out and no doubt could have sold another 25 or 30.

Many thanks go to Natalie Brown of the Southern Oregon Historical Society for working on the cover photo. As always, Natalie did a fantastic job. Thanks also to the SOHS for allowing us to use some of their early day Gold Hill photos.

Rol Rosecrans and his daughter, Rhonda earned our appreciation for their help in researching the correct spelling of Bill Hay's name. (H-A-Y)

Finally, a big thank you goes to Ted Wharton, who spent endless hours on his own, laying out and designing a calendar of which we were all proud!

1994 Calendar: Work Begins!

The calendar committee is asking for photos of old mines, miners or mine buildings for potential use in a future calendar. Photos may be donated or loaned for us to copy. Please drop off such photos at our museum or drop in the mail. Incidentally, mining artifacts will also be appreciated to compliment our museum display.



MARGE MARTIN, PRESIDENT

Hi Folks,

Another year has gone by and February was the time for new officers to be elected. So here I am.

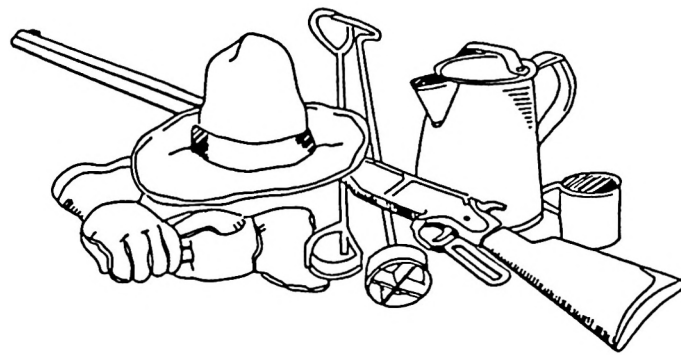
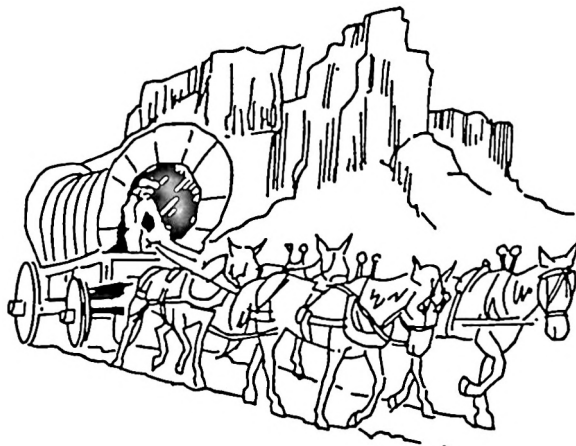
I would like to thank all the past officers for working so hard. They made it easier for the rest of us. I hope I do a good job for you.

We have a lot of fun at the monthly meetings, so come and join us. They are the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00. We need your input.

TED WHARTON, OUTGOING PRESIDENT

Following up on my message in the December '92 issue, I wish to thank the officers and active members of GHHS for their help and support during my term as President. I now pass the gavel to other capable hands and will move on to being Secretary of our society for 1993.

Many interesting things are ahead for us, so it is my desire to spark more interest in our society from the membership and the public. As we move ahead, let's make our image more visible and our existence more publicized. Don't be bashful or reluctant. Come to our interesting meetings or join if you are not a member. Feel good about yourself: Be a doer or a joiner and everyone else will feel good about you too.



SESSIONS MOVE TO EUGENE

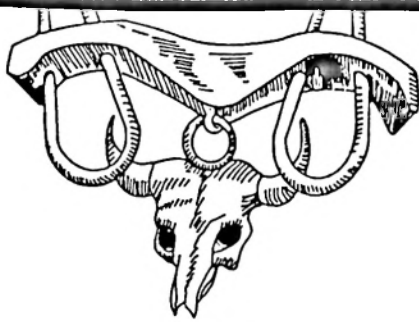
Charter GHHS members Jerry and Janet Sessions recently relocated to Eugene. Over the years they have helped our organization to be more successful. While in Gold Hill, Jerry had moved countless artifacts, showcases, heavy tables, yard sale items and storage items. What would we have done without his truck?

Then there's Janet, a Human whirlwind. She took on any and every task that needed doing. She helped to organize fundraisers, baked food for sales, marched in several Gold Dust Days parades, took photographs, compiled oral histories, arranged displays, wrote articles for our newsletter, painted an entire cement floor, served as Secretary and treasurer (more than once) and the list goes on.

But probably the best thing Janet ever did was to ask to work off that ticket she got by doing community service. That's when all those bits and pieces of Gold Hill's history were brought out of storage at City Hall.

That same collection is now a part of a much larger group of photos and information that were collected since interest in our history was renewed. All of the efforts came from volunteers just like Janet and Jerry.

Our hats are off to them for all their hard work toward and dedication to the GHHS. We couldn't have done it without them!



GOLD DUST DAYS

Once again, The Society will participate in Gold Hill's annual GOLD Dust Days celebration. This year it will occur on Saturday, June 5. Our float, with construction again directed by the talented Ted Wharton, will incorporate early mining. We also will be operating the sno-cone booth in City Park following the parade. More discussion on Gold Dust Days will occur at our March 17 meeting. Please attend and bring your ideas and willingness to help.

GHHS MUSEUM

Have you ever planned a family visit to the GHHS Museum? Certainly you've passed by it dozens of times on your way through town. What about this Saturday? Plan a visit. We're open five days a week, currently, for your browsing enjoyment. Admission: FREE! Current hours:

Wednesday----1:00 to 4:00

Thursday-----11:30 to 4:00

Friday-----12:30 to 4:00

Saturday-----1:00 to 4:00

Sunday-----10 to 4:00



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